

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-15 are rejected. In response, claim 1 is amended to clarify that the portable composite device determines the present mode being set in the web camera mode and where the personal computer is connected to the interface. These amendments are made to clarify the features of the invention.

In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0135677 to Noro et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,541,703 to Suzuka. Noro et al. is cited for disclosing a camera for setting a wide angle mode when the power switch is turned on. Suzuka is cited for disclosing a focusing system for a camera.

The combination of Noro et al. and Suzuka does not disclose or suggest the combination of features of the claimed invention. In particular, Noro et al. and Suzuka do not disclose a method of setting a web camera mode when the power switch is turned on and the portable composite device is connected to a personal computer where the composite device can be set to either a mass storage mode or a web camera mode, and when set to the web camera mode, the lens is set to the wide angle mode. The combination of the cited patents does not suggest a method of setting the lens to a wide angle mode in response to 1) the web camera mode setting, 2) the power switch being turned on, and 3) the device being connected to the personal computer. Noro et al. and Suzuka also do not disclose the portable composite device setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode without requiring a

user's additional command on the basis of a preset value when in the web camera mode and the portable composite device is connected to the personal computer. The combination of the cited patents also fails to disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode by driving the zoom lens in a wide angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens by calculating a distance difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset distance and compensating for the focal distance of the zoom lens according to the calculated distance difference.

Noro et al. only discloses setting the wide angle mode if the power switch is turned on. Noro et al. does not disclose the combination of the claimed method steps. The Action refers generally to paragraph 0072 of Noro et al. for disclosing the setting of the zoom lens to a wide angle mode. This passage does not suggest that the portable composite device sets the device in a wide angle mode without requiring a user's additional command on the basis of a preset value as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, this passage does not suggest that the portable composite device is set to a wide angle mode when the web camera mode is set and the portable composite device is connected to a personal computer.

The Action refers to the predetermined position of the zoom lens of Noro et al. in paragraph 0072. However, this passage clearly refers to "a home button 70 for returning the camera to a predetermined front position". Thus, the camera requires manual manipulation of the button by the user and returns the camera to the front position. The front position refers to the pan direction in a horizontal plane with respect to the camera as controlled by pan buttons 62 and 64 and tilt buttons 66 and 68 for tilting the direction of the camera in a vertical line. There is clearly no suggestion of the camera of Noro et al. automatically setting the camera to a wide angle mode when the web camera mode is set and the camera is connected to a

personal computer. Moreover, Noro et al. does not disclose or suggest returning the pan direction of the zoom lens to “a predetermined position” if the mode is the in web camera mode as asserted in the Action. Paragraph 0072 does not support this position. The predetermined front position referred to in Noro et al. is not a wide angle mode in response to a web camera mode being set.

Suzuka does not provide the deficiencies of Noro et al. such that the combination of Suzuka and Noro et al. does not render the claimed invention obvious. Suzuka relates to a remote control system for a camera to enable the operator of the camera to take self portraits. The device and method of Suzuka include a remote controller 20 and a light receiver 33 on the camera body. The mode changing switch 42 on the camera body switches the measuring mode of the light from a normal measuring mode where the normal measuring light is emitted from the measuring light emitter toward the object and a remote measuring mode where the remote measuring light is emitted from the remote controller toward the camera body to detect the object distance. The mode selection switch 36 is manually actuated by the photographer. The remote controller carried by the photographer has a light emitter 53 that emits the remote releasing light for actuating the camera body and the remote measuring light. This has no relation to the apparatus of Noro et al. or the claimed invention.

The passages referred to in the Action only describe a method of focusing the camera lens. The angle of view of the zoom lens is adjusted according to the focal length calculated by the system. There is no suggestion of setting the zoom lens of Suzuka to a wide angle mode as in the present invention. As recognized in the Action, Noro et al. does not disclose the portable composite device setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode without requiring a user’s additional command. Suzuka

also does not disclose this feature. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Noro et al. in the manner suggested in the Action.

The claimed invention is not obvious where none of the cited art discloses or reasonably suggests the features of the invention. Suzuka specifically requires a remote switch operated by the photographer to actuate the camera and set the focusing operation based on the light emitted from the remote control. Suzuka does not automatically set the camera to a wide angle mode or focus the camera according to a focal distance in response to setting the zoom lens to a wide angle mode. In contrast, Suzuka sets the wide angle mode according to the focal distance based on the command from the remote control switch.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Noro et al. according to Suzuka since Noro et al. has no use for a remote control switch. Even if one were to modify the system of Noro et al. according to Suzuka, the resulting method and device would not be the claimed invention. Accordingly, the method of claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Suzuka.

Claims 2, 6 and 8 are also not obvious as depending from claim 1 and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in the combination of Noro et al. and Suzuka. The combination of the cited patents does not disclose providing an image signal corresponding to an image acquired by the zoom lens set to a wide angle mode to the personal computer through the interface as in claim 2, setting the focal distance of the zoom lens to a specified distance as in claim 6, or releasing a setting of the wide angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from the interface as in claim 8, either alone or in combination with the features of claim 1. As noted above, Noro et al. does not set the wide angle mode or set the focal distance of the zoom lens to a specified distance as in claim 6. Noro et

al. does not disclose or suggest releasing the setting of the wide angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from the interface as in claim 8. Suzuka does not disclose or relate to an interface with the personal computer or setting a wide angle mode in the manner of the claimed invention. Suzuka clearly fails to disclose releasing a wide angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from an interface. Accordingly, these claims are not obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Suzuka. The passages referred to in the Action refer to the step of ending the camera operation of Noro et al. These passages provide no suggestion of releasing a wide angle mode when the camera is disconnected from a computer. The wide angle mode of Noro et al. is manually set by the operator and is returned to the normal position by pressing the home button.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Noro et al. in view of Suzuka, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112342 to Takeuchi. Takeuchi is cited for disclosing a step of setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on a color temperature and image.

Takeuchi does not provide the deficiencies of Noro et al. or Suzuka and thus does not render the claims obvious. Takeuchi does not relate to a portable composite device which is operated in a web camera mode or which can be connected to a personal computer. Takeuchi provides no motivation or incentive to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the wide angle lens of Noro et al. or Suzuka to set the color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature.

Takeuchi discloses a system to provide pick-up images by arranging signals where a white balance is performed. A calculating device is used to calculate the

control values as preset white control values. The white control values are obtained by a reference digital camera with light sources having different color temperatures. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a setting of a web camera mode or setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode based on a web camera mode setting and setting a color temperature of the image signal in a web camera mode according to the claimed invention.

Takeuchi does not disclose setting a color temperature by calculating the color temperature difference between a preset color temperature and a color temperature of the image signal and compensating for the preset color temperature for a camera lens to set a wide angle mode when set in a web camera mode according to the present claims. Takeuchi does not disclose setting a lens to a wide angle mode based on a color temperature. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Noro et al. and/or Suzuka based on Takeuchi to attain the claimed invention. Thus, claims 3 and 4 are not obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Suzuka and Takeuchi.

Rejection of Claim 9

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Noro et al. in view of Suzuka, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017653 to Hata. Hata is referred to as disclosing a step of determining whether a portable composite device is used in a mass storage mode and transmitting video and audio data stored in the composite device to a personal computer through an interface.

Hata relates to a digital video camera that is able to function as an internet server where the internet server determines whether a request for transmitting the

moving storage data has been made from a personal computer. Hata is not related to a composite device that can be set to a web camera mode. Hata is further unrelated to the system of Noro et al. or the remote controlled system of Suzuka.

One skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the system of Noro et al. or Suzuka to enable the camera to function as an internet server as in Hata. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to modify the system of Noro et al. and/or Suzuka to determine whether the portable composite device is used in a mass storage setting and transmitting video/audio data to a personal computer through an interface. Even if one were to modify the device of Noro et al. and Suzuka according to Hata, the result would not be the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 9 is not obvious over the combination of the cited patents.

Rejection of Claims 10, 14 and 15

Claims 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Hata in view of Suzuka. Hata is cited for disclosing a portable device having a control unit and a switching unit for switching and transmitting data stored in a storage medium or data storage corresponding to an electrical signal.

As noted in the Action, Hata does not disclose or suggest a control unit for setting a position of a zoom lens to a wide angle mode to a preset distance from an object in response to an external control signal from a personal computer and in response to setting a web camera mode of the portable device. Suzuka does not disclose a portable composite device for setting a zoom lens to a wide angle mode without requiring a user's additional command as suggested in the Action. Suzuka as noted above discloses a remote control operated by the photographer. The photographer actuates the remote control to actuate the camera to focus on the remote

control unit and the photographer. The photographer does not automatically adjust the focal length of the zoom lens.

Furthermore, the focal length of the camera is not set on the basis of a preset value. As noted in the Action, Suzuka sets the wide angle mode by adjusting the focal distance. This has no relation to the claimed invention which sets the wide angle mode by selecting the wide angle mode and connecting the composite device to a personal computer. In the present invention, the focusing of the camera lens is performed after the camera is set to the wide angle mode. Suzuka discloses setting the angle of the wide angle mode based on the focal length.

Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Hata according to Suzuka. Furthermore, even if one were to do so, the result would not be the claimed invention. The combination of Hata and Suzuka does not suggest a portable composite device having a control unit for converting the electrical signal output from an image pickup into digital data, compressing and storing the data and generating a mode selection signal, and where the control unit sets a position of the zoom lens to a wide angle mode to a preset value in response to an external control signal from a personal computer without requiring a user's additional command and in response, setting a web camera mode of the portable composite device. Suzuka does not disclose or suggest setting the wide angle mode to a preset value in response to an external control signal from a personal computer. Furthermore, Suzuka does not suggest setting a wide angle mode to a preset value without requiring a user's additional command and in response to a web camera mode. Accordingly, independent claim 10 is not obvious over the combination of Hata and Suzuka.

The cited patents also do not disclose a switching unit to output digital data stored in a storage medium when a mode control signal is in a first logic level and outputting digital data corresponding to an electric signal to a serial port through a serial interface when the mode control signal is in a second logic level as in claim 14 or the storage medium being a hard disk drive as in claim 15, in combination with the features of claim 10. Thus, claims 14 and 15 are not obvious over the combination of Hata and Suzuka.

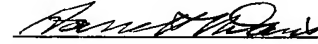
Rejection of Claims 12 and 13

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected as being obvious over Hata in view of Suzuka, and further in view of Takeuchi.

Takeuchi is not directed to a device or method of operating a composite device in a web camera mode when the composite device is connected to a personal computer. Takeuchi provides no suggestion of modifying the apparatus of Suzuka or Hata to provide a control unit for modifying the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal to have a preset color temperature value in response to an external control as in claim 12, or the color temperature value being at or about 4500°K as in claim 13. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 are not obvious over the combination of Hata, Suzuka and Takeuchi.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, the claims are submitted to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: Sept 25, 2008